



NCLB Making a Difference in West Virginia

- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for West Virginia to more than \$788.9 million – 46% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$98.1 million – \$22.4 million over 2001 levels – to help West Virginia's neediest children.
- West Virginia has received \$20.8 million in reading grants to help schools and districts improve children's reading achievement through scientifically proven methods of instruction since 2002. President Bush's proposed budget includes an additional \$7.8 million for West Virginia. In total, over six years, West Virginia is set to receive approximately \$43.8 million in Reading First funds.
- "Gilmer County teachers are working to put \$618,000 in reading funds to good use with the hope of increasing reading test scores at Sand Fork and Normantown elementary schools. The two Gilmer County schools were selected by the state this year to receive \$206,000 for the next three years as part of the Reading First Project, said director Lesa Hines. 'I think this can make a difference in Gilmer County,' she said. Parents and students will realize the grant's worth soon when 2,400 new books are placed on shelves inside the two schools' kindergarten through third-grade classrooms. Each class will receive 100 books on grade level, 100 below level and another 100 above level. The grant also adds a reading mentor teaching position at each school and mandates that teachers provide an extended, uninterrupted reading block for students, Hines said." (*Parkersburg News and Sentinel*, 5/6/04)
- "After topping the state average of West Virginia schools that met Adequate Yearly Progress, local school districts are pleased with the results of the West Virginia Education Standards Test, as it prompted 77.4 percent of Northern Panhandle schools to meet AYP. Statewide results from the West Virginia Department of Education show that more than 70 percent of schools made the grade as part of West Virginia Achieves, the state's *No Child Left Behind* accountability plan. 'Our numbers are improving across the board,' [State Superintendent of Schools David] Stewart said. 'West Virginia Achieves is about closing the achievement gap,' he added." (*Wheeling News-Register*, 8/26/04)
- "Mineral County Schools announced that all schools in the county met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) school-wide under West Virginia Achieves, the state's *No Child Left Behind* implementation plan. In addition, six schools met AYP for all subgroups. 'I am so proud of our teachers and our students,' said Skip Hackworth, Superintendent. 'Our WESTEST scores prove that our schools are committed to closing the achievement gap for all students. Our calculations suggest that we met high achievement standards in 92 percent of the NCLB accountability cells. We are moving in the right direction and I am confident that our momentum will continue.'" (*Mineral Daily News-Tribune*, 8/30/04)
- "Last year, when 17 of Harrison County's 25 schools were listed as needing improvement based on the federal *No Child Left Behind* legislation, teachers, students and parents questioned how reasonable expectations were that schools could meet the federal guidelines. A year later, expectations were not only met, but exceeded. This year, the county had 18 of its 25 schools meeting the federal requirements for test scores, attendance and graduation rates. 'Watching the county go from 17 schools needing improvement last year to only seven this year was a thrill,' said Harrison County Schools Superintendent Carl Friebel. 'There is no bad news here,' Friebel said. 'We credit this to what the teachers are doing out in the schools.'" (*Clarksburg Exponent Telegram*, 8/31/04)